



International IDEA

Annual Review

How our work makes a difference



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Cover image: Indigenous women line up to vote during general elections in Zinacantán, Mexico, on 2 June 2024. Credit: AP Photo/Luis Etzin.

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International IDEA Annual Review 2024

How our work makes a difference

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A message from the Secretary-General



In 2024 the global democratic decline continued. Long-standing challenges to democracy and democratic institutions persisted in all parts of the world and at every level of democratic performance. Many countries that were already struggling saw further deterioration, while some of the world's most robust democracies faced mounting threats.

Despite these ongoing challenges, 2024 also saw significant changes. It was the greatest year of elections in history, with over 70 countries heading to the polls. In many of these electoral contests—from Botswana and Senegal to the United Kingdom and the United States—power changed hands through the ballot box. Globally, these elections took place in a context of growing uncertainty. Rapid technological change raised questions about how democratic institutions can use artificial intelligence to improve their work—and how to prevent those same technologies from undermining democracy. At the same time, another force was also reshaping the democratic landscape—climate change. No longer just a long-term risk for democracies, it is a threat to fair elections here and now.

Across this landscape of continuity and change, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) helped its Member States and partners both to understand these complex challenges and to address them. Working on the front lines of democracy, our experts in election management, constitutional design, and political participation and representation supported national authorities and grassroots activists alike.

This report provides a series of snapshots of how this work made a difference last year, across domains of policy research, capacity building,

convening and advocacy. In 2024 we concentrated our attention on the urgent need to protect elections—by producing knowledge on trends in participation and representation, by enhancing interagency coordination to address disinformation and other threats, by gathering our Member States for candid exchanges about electoral integrity and by focusing our first global institutional advocacy campaign on this topic.

Meanwhile, our innovative programmes also reinforced democratic resilience in the face of digitalization and climate change; helped raise ethical standards in the European Parliament elections and in the Gambian Parliament; and mediated dialogues between governments, political parties, civil society and citizens, from Bhutan to Peru, and through our coordination of the Global Democracy Coalition.

With a quarter of humanity included in our intergovernmental membership and operational activities around the globe, we have a strong claim to being the most representative voice, forum and actor for democracy in the world. As democracy comes under growing pressure—and becomes ever more needed—this report showcases how our work remains so effective and so vital.



Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora

Secretary-General, International IDEA

Introduction

Our vision

A world in which everyone lives in inclusive and resilient democracies with accountable actors, institutions and processes able to respond to citizens' needs, protect human rights and deliver sustainable development.

Our mission

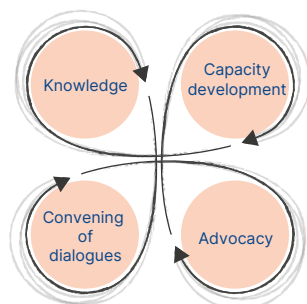
International IDEA advances, promotes and protects sustainable democracy worldwide in consideration of human rights commitments through policy-relevant knowledge, capacity development, advocacy and the convening of dialogues.

Supporting democracy worldwide

Who we are

We are an intergovernmental organization, founded in 1995 with a mandate to support sustainable democracy worldwide. We have Permanent Observer status at the United Nations.

Our Four Ways of Working



What we do

We develop policy-friendly research and analysis related to elections, parliaments, constitutions, digitalization, climate change, inclusion and political representation, all under the umbrella of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We assess the performance of democracies through our unique Global State of Democracy Indices and the Democracy Tracker.

We provide capacity development and expert advice to democracy actors including government, parliaments, election officials and civil society.

We develop tools and publish databases, handbooks, reports and primers in several languages on topics ranging from voter turnout to gender quotas.

We bring states and non-state actors together for dialogues and lesson sharing.

We stand up and speak out to promote and protect democracy worldwide.

35

Member States

20+

offices around the world

60+

countries

Our expertise

Democracy Assessment

Our Global State of Democracy Reports and Indices provide accurate, detailed and timely information on democratic performance across the world. Our Democracy Tracker continually monitors trends in 173 nations.

Electoral Processes

Our expertise stretches from risk management in elections to special voting arrangements and the future of electoral assistance. This enables us to support electoral management bodies and election officials.

Constitution-Building and Rule of Law

We develop comparative knowledge and provide advice on constitutional design, constitution-building processes and the rule of law, in fragile as well as more consolidated democracies.

Political Participation and Representation

We support political parties, parliaments, and women and youth with knowledge and capacity development, with an increasing focus on new forms of political participation and representation.

Money in Politics

We produce data and research, provide technical assistance to political finance oversight agencies and political parties, and support peer-to-peer learning among practitioners.

Climate Change

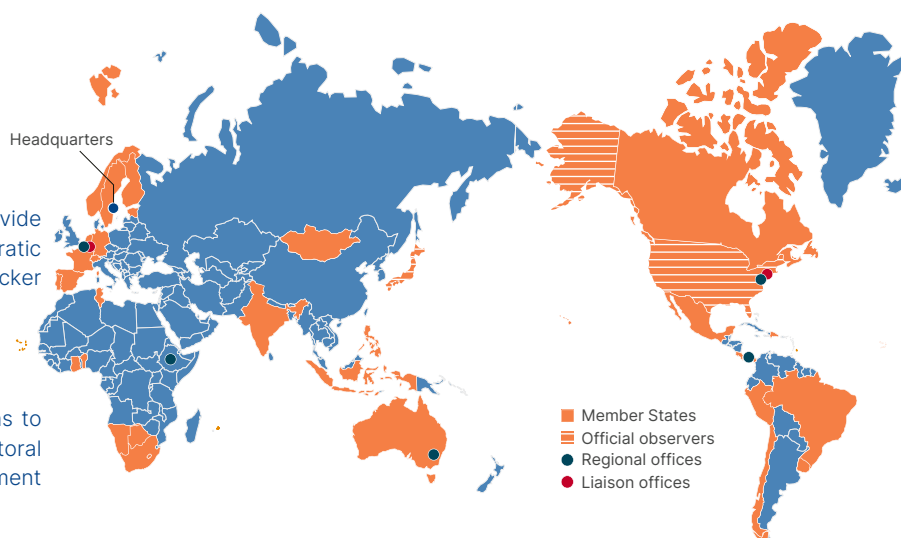
We develop research and tools that can help democracies tackle the climate crisis.

Gender and Inclusion, Conflict and Environment

Gender equality and inclusion, conflict sensitivity and environmental protection are mainstreamed in all areas of our work, from project planning to implementation.

Digitalization

We support institutions in reaping the benefits of digital innovation as well as countering digital threats to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights.



Our reach around the world



International IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora (right) and Programme Manager Yuliya Shypilova honour the memory of the Ukrainians who lost their lives in the war. Kyiv, Ukraine, November 2024. Credit: International IDEA/Sam van der Staak



Leena Rikkilä Tamang (left), International IDEA's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, hands over the 2024 Global State of Democracy report to Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dr Harini Amarasuriya. Credit: International IDEA/Durga Karki



The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Navin Ramgoolam (left), shakes hands with International IDEA's Secretary-General, Kevin Casas-Zamora, in Port Louis, Mauritius, July 2024. Credit: Office of the Prime Minister of Mauritius



Marcela Ríos Tobar (left), International IDEA's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Rolando González Patricio, President of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (Parlatino), during an event on parity, democracy and substantive equality in Latin America and the Caribbean organized by UN Women and Parlatino on 6 November 2024 at the Parlatino head office in Panama City, Panama. Credit: International IDEA/Manuel Rodríguez



International IDEA's Secretary-General, Kevin Casas-Zamora (left), in a meeting with the President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, in Gaborone, Botswana, June 2024. Credit: International IDEA/Gavin Charles



Leena Rikkilä Tamang (left), International IDEA's Director for the Asia and the Pacific Region, is interviewed in Taiwan during the so-called Bluebird protests against proposed legislative reform bills, 21 May 2024. Credit: Citizen Congress Watch Taiwan/James Kan



International IDEA's Africa and West Asia Regional Director, Roba Sharamo (centre), and Danladi Plang (left), Head of Programme for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption in Nigeria, greet the Director of Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Justice, Bola Odugbesan, during the 10th Network Conference of Sexual Assault Referral Centres, in Abuja, Nigeria. Credit: International IDEA



The Chair of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, Mosotho Moepya (left), and International IDEA's Secretary-General, Kevin Casas-Zamora, laughing together in Pretoria, South Africa, June 2024. Credit: International IDEA/Gavin Charles



International IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora (right) meets with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, the democratic leader of Belarus, in Vilnius, Lithuania, February 2024. Credit: Office of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya



International IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora (right) meets with Jakob Granit, the Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, at International IDEA headquarters in June 2024. Credit: International IDEA/Jessica Kehayes



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Alicia Barcena (left), speaks with International IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora on the margins of the UN General Debate in New York. Credit: International IDEA



Roba Sharamo (second from left), International IDEA's Regional Director for Africa and West Asia, with the Hon. Korir Sing'oei (left), Principal Secretary of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs in Kenya; H. E. Mohammed El-Amine Souef (second from right), Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia and Head of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia; and H. E. Esther Loeffen (far right), Ambassador of the Netherlands to Burkina Faso, during the Third Annual Retreat of the African Regional Economic Communities' Special Envoys and High-Level Representatives, from 29 to 31 October 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. Credit: International IDEA

Our impact



Above: Members of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine work in groups during a capacity-building workshop focused on protecting the country's elections, in Kyiv, Ukraine, November 2024. Credit: Valeriia Landar



Left: International IDEA's research team interviewing elected representatives of She Phoksundo Rural Municipality, in the Dolpa district of Nepal, to identify hidden stories behind the vacant seats reserved for Dalit women in local governments of Nepal on 22 October 2024. Credit: Lila Bahadur Tamatta

Our funding

Core funding

Partially core funding

Restricted funding

Governance

Advancing dialogue, learning and cooperation among Member States

Funding: Sweden, Australian Electoral Commission and Core

Themes: Electoral Processes, Gender and Inclusion

In 2024 International IDEA launched a programme of thematic dialogues with and among Member States. The dialogues, which enabled participants to learn from one another about key issues related to democracy, took place in two successful and engaging series.

First, the Australian Electoral Commission, in partnership with International IDEA, initiated a series of virtual seminars for electoral practitioners called the Canberra Series on Electoral Integrity. The strong reception of and high level of participation in these seminars led the Swedish Election Authority and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs to join the partnership and convene a second series of seminars. The aim of the seminars is to forge sustainable connections between technical and political issues and communities and between the national and the global levels.



Clare O'Neil, Australia's Minister for Home Affairs, at the Canberra Series on Electoral Integrity, a series of virtual and in-person seminars for electoral practitioners organized in partnership with International IDEA, June 2024. Credit: Australian Electoral Commission

Second, International IDEA partnered with Luxembourg, the 2024 Chair of the Institute's Council of Member States, to develop a series called 'Democracy Exchanges on Gender'. These meetings were dedicated to Sustainable Development Goal 5.5, on women's political participation, and to gender-related aspects of policy debates on digitalization and climate change. The series highlighted good practices, identified critical drivers of effective policies, proposed areas for collective action and supported Luxembourg's leadership efforts as the Chair to highlight the intersection of gender and democracy.

“

'Democracy thrives on active participation. We are honour-bound to keep that up. ... We've all got big and important obligations here—to drive this conversation, and make sure that it creates real change for our country.'

— **Hon. Clare O'Neil**, MP, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cyber Security, Australia, speaking at the Canberra Series on Electoral Integrity, June 2024

Global Programmes and Communications

#ProtectElections: A global advocacy campaign

**Funding:**

Core

Theme:

Electoral Processes

In 2024 International IDEA designed and executed its first global annual advocacy campaign, focused on electoral integrity. At the start of the year, as countries that together account for half the world's population prepared to go to the polls, the Institute resolved to redouble its focus on protecting democratic elections.

International IDEA delivered on this commitment by developing the capacity of electoral authorities to manage risk, by convening dialogues to exchange good electoral practices among the electoral management bodies and foreign ministries in the Institute's Member States, and by generating and disseminating knowledge about trends through the 2024 Global State of Democracy report and other publications. The campaign reinforced the Institute's voice as a champion of free and fair elections, while strengthening synergies across teams and regions. One hallmark of the campaign was a new website landing page highlighting developments in elections worldwide.

Updated regularly, this page quickly became a reference tool for governments, media and researchers globally. The campaign's frequent media advisories generated some 6,000 mentions of International IDEA related to elections, including in *The New York Times*, *The Economist* and other leading publications.

“

'It is highly meaningful to work with global norms for elections and to give practical support to electoral integrity ... so let us with full force advance the work of supporting elections.'

— **Diana Janse**, State Secretary to the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Trade, Sweden, speaking to the Global Network for Securing Electoral Integrity at International IDEA headquarters, March 2024

Global Programmes

Protecting Elections: The power of interagency cooperation

Funding:

Protecting Elections project, funded by Canada, and Protecting Electoral Processes in the Information Environment project funded by Germany

Theme:

Electoral Processes

Electoral integrity is under increasing pressure in both transitional and well-established democracies. The 2024 super-cycle election year highlighted the complexities involved in safeguarding electoral processes amid challenges such as democratic backsliding, natural and human-made disasters, cybersecurity threats, and the spread of mis- and disinformation.

As a global convener, International IDEA has a long history of promoting interagency cooperation to strengthen democracy and electoral integrity. Through Protecting Electoral Processes in the Information Environment project—the Institute has supported partners in Fiji, Finland, Libya, Mauritius and Paraguay in strengthening their collaboration with stakeholders.

By bringing together diverse actors through workshop and training events to identify and map risks, refine response frameworks, develop road maps for strategy implementation and assess joint information needs, International IDEA has fostered stronger relationships, built shared capacity, and enhanced interagency coordination and preparedness among electoral stakeholders. This approach continues to drive innovations in how elections are managed and safeguarded worldwide.



Commissioner Irfan Abdool Rahman (left), Office of the Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius, and International IDEA's Head of Electoral Processes, Therese Pearce-Laanela (centre), present a certificate to a participant during a workshop funded by Canada on developing capacity to protect elections, held in Mauritius in May 2024. Credit: Lume Production Company Ltd

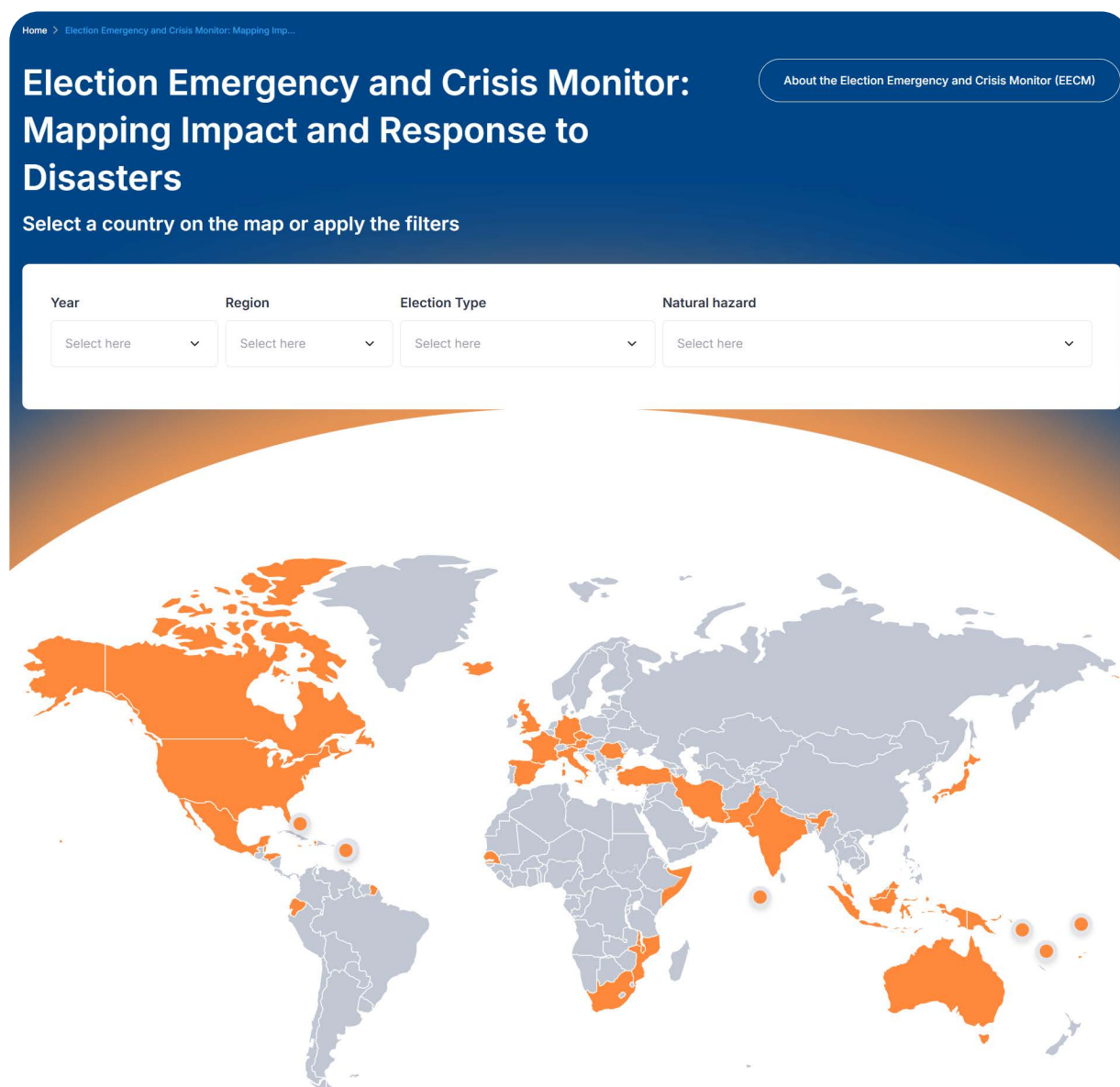
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‘For the first time in our history, ... we have had different stakeholders from different state agencies meeting together for a whole day under one roof and engaging with each other. ... [I]t was a unique experience and a very good platform to share and learn from one another.’

— **Commissioner Irfan Abdool Rahman**, Office of the Electoral Commissioner of Mauritius, following the first workshop held under the Canada-funded Protecting Elections project, in February 2024

Global Programmes

Managing elections in a changing climate



Source: International IDEA, Election Emergency and Crisis Monitor: Mapping Impact and Response to Disasters, [n.d.], <<https://www.idea.int/election-dashboard-election-emergency-and-crisis-monitor>>, accessed 21 March 2025.

Funding:

Core

Theme:

Electoral Processes

Fifteen countries experienced extreme weather events during election periods in 2024. International IDEA is raising awareness of the increasing threats that natural hazards—particularly climate-related events such as floods, heat waves, tropical storms and wildfires—pose to electoral processes. The growing evidence of their impact on electoral processes can be seen on the webpage [Impact of Natural Hazards and Elections](#), which International IDEA initiated in 2022 and updates frequently. The page includes a global analysis, an interactive dashboard with illustrative briefs, case studies and podcasts on the topic.

A key priority has been to engage with communities focused on climate change and disaster risk reduction—for example, by strengthening collaboration with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). International IDEA's Electoral Processes team now regularly publishes knowledge resources on UNDRR's news portal, PreventionWeb, which attracts 210,000 monthly visitors and has provided expertise and feedback on publications released by the Council on Foreign Relations and Climate Central.

“

'[International IDEA has created a] really interesting dashboard showing the intersection of [climate change] and [democracy]! Extreme weather events are only projected to rise in intensity in the years to come. It's important to track and analyze this data to inform policymakers that their decisions on climate issues can have a downstream effect on elections.'

— Wilfred Salas Jr, Program Associate at Human Rights Watch

Global Programmes

Global State of Democracy wins worldwide media attention, while Ghanaian Parliament references report



Funding: The Global State of Democracy Initiative is funded by Core, the European Union, Robert Bosch Stiftung and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Theme: Democracy Assessment

As in previous years, International IDEA's [Global State of Democracy \(GSoD\) report](#) was an important source of data and analysis for public officials throughout 2024. More than 350 media outlets from around the world, including ABC News, the Associated Press and *El País*, covered the launch of the 2024 report.

Over the last three years, the report has been referenced by governments and organizations from the [Finnish Innovation Fund \(Sitra\)](#) and the [European External Action Service](#) to the [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development](#), the [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), the [International Trade Union Confederation \(ITUC\)](#), and the [UN Development](#)

[Programme](#). Ghana's speaker of parliament [referenced](#) analysis from the GSoD during a 2024 keynote address marking the University of Ghana's 75th anniversary.

The address traced the evolution of democratic governance in Ghana and reflected on the role of the country's parliament. The speaker's reference to the 2023 GSoD report is evidence of its value for political leadership and its ability to reach holders of the most influential political offices. Even more encouraging is the fact that the speaker referred to the report in front of an audience of current and former students of the University of Ghana to get them to reflect on declining faith in democracy among younger Africans and to call on young people to take notice.

The speaker delivered the message that Ghana's Parliament must prove that it is capable of delivering on its mandate—holding the executive to account, reducing corruption and addressing societal challenges—thus highlighting the report's role in institutional self-reflection and engagement with young people.

“

'Africans are ... fed up with the flimsy states that provide neither security nor prosperity. ... Should this continue, many Africans, especially younger ones, may be tempted to reconsider shabby social contracts—and look for radical change. In its ... Global State of Democracy 2023 [report], International IDEA noted that "Across every region of the world, democracy has continued to contract, with declines in at least one indicator of democratic performance in half of the countries covered in the 2023 report".'

— **The Right Honourable Alban Sumana Kingsford Bagbin**, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Ghana

Global Programmes

Reinforcing resilience against foreign information manipulation and interference



Participants from the workshop 'Designing a Global Methodology for Analyzing Electoral Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI)', held in Brussels on 5 November 2024. Credit: International IDEA/Angelo Galgani

Funding:

Canada

Themes:

Digitalization and Democracy, Money in Politics

A workshop held in November 2024 produced a refined global methodology for identifying and analysing the factors that affect election-related foreign information manipulation and interference. The methodology empowers national stakeholders, particularly civil society organizations, to conduct country-level analyses and develop effective policy responses.

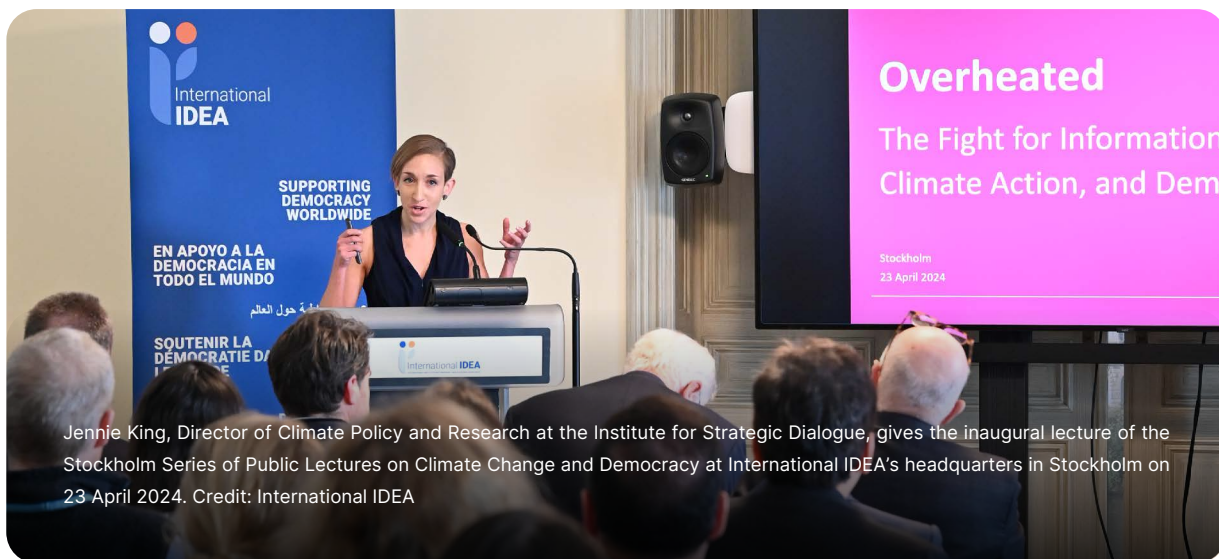
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‘Expert discussions at this level are needed to determine the scope of the problem itself and how we can approach it in the future, what kind of strategies we can take.’

— Ena Bavčić, Lead Researcher, Digital Rights Programme, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network

Global Programmes

Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy



Jennie King, Director of Climate Policy and Research at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, gives the inaugural lecture of the Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy at International IDEA's headquarters in Stockholm on 23 April 2024. Credit: International IDEA

Funding: Core and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Regional Programme Nordic Countries

Theme: Climate Change and Democracy

Policymakers, advisors, influencers, civil society organizations and scholars used the [Stockholm Series of Public Lectures on Climate Change and Democracy](#) to engage in a cross-discipline dialogue on the nexus between climate change and democracy.

The series, held between April and December 2024, inspired exchanges about the multiple linkages between climate change and democratic governance and created networks between the professional communities in both fields. The long-term objective of the lectures is to increase cooperation among these actors to contribute to more effective and inclusive climate action.

Through the Stockholm Series, International IDEA utilized its convening power to bring together its Member States and Stockholm-based institutions with a particular interest in climate change and democracy. Speakers in 2024 included Jennie King, Director of Climate Policy and Research at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (23 April); Nicole Curato, Professor of Political Sociology at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra (11 June); Greta Ríos, Co-Executive Director of People Powered (12 November); and Luisa Neubauer, a climate justice activist and author (5 December). Over 1,000 people participated in person or virtually, and more than 260,000 people have viewed the lecture videos.

At a meeting in December, partner organizations confirmed their commitment to continuing the Stockholm Series in 2025. Together with them, International IDEA also proposed concrete steps to complement the Stockholm Series with in-person workshops on relevant topics.

Global Programmes

AI Literacy for Electoral Actors: Global workshops for resilient elections



Ramesh Verma (standing), Chief Electoral Officer from the state of Goa, India, at the first AI Literacy for Electoral Actors training event in November 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Credit: International IDEA/Juliane Müller

Funding: Microsoft and OpenAI

Theme: Digitalization and Democracy

To respond to the challenges that artificial intelligence (AI) presents for electoral management bodies (EMBs), International IDEA launched a project in 2024 on AI literacy for electoral actors.

The project seeks to improve AI literacy and resilience among EMBs and civil society worldwide. The objective is to harness AI's potential to improve electoral integrity while mitigating risks such as misinformation or marginalization by increasing knowledge on the part of EMBs and civil society. Two of five planned workshops have already taken place—in Kuala Lumpur, for electoral actors in the Asia-Pacific region, and in Tirana, for Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans.

Participants at the event in Kuala Lumpur expressed greater optimism than their counterparts at the event in Tirana, while the latter highlighted concerns over disinformation risks in particular. Participants at both events emphasized the importance of regulation and ethical standards to safeguard democracy.

“

‘We are thinking how we, firstly, integrate AI into our own management of elections, but more particularly how ... we regulate the use of AI by political campaigners.’

— Tom Rogers, Head of the Australian Electoral Commission

Global Programmes

Empowering voices: Youth Parliamentary Academy in Zambia



National Assembly of Zambia officials and staff pictured during a visit with representatives of the Austrian Parliament, the Irish Parliament, the Youth Parliamentary Academy and International IDEA in Lusaka, Zambia, 21 November 2024. Credit: National Assembly of Zambia

Funding:

European Union

Theme:

Political Participation and Representation

Twenty young adults from across Zambia gathered at the National Assembly in November 2024 for the Youth Parliamentary Academy, as part of the Inter Pares partnership with the National Assembly. Over four days, the participants deepened their understanding of representative democracy and improved their public-speaking and message-crafting skills.

What set the Academy apart from many other parliamentary initiatives for young people is that it empowered young adults who do not usually engage with parliament to take an active role in shaping their democracy. In addition to offering practical knowledge, international experiences, and context-specific exercises to help them express and defend their ideas, the Academy gave participants an opportunity to provide input into the Zambian Parliament's planned educational materials and youth strategy.

The National Assembly plans to create a youth participation strategy and a suite of educational materials, drawing on insights from the Youth Parliamentary Academy. Additionally, Inter Pares | Parliaments in Partnership, a global project to strengthen the capacity of parliaments, will make an Academy toolkit available that will serve as an open-source guide for other parliaments.

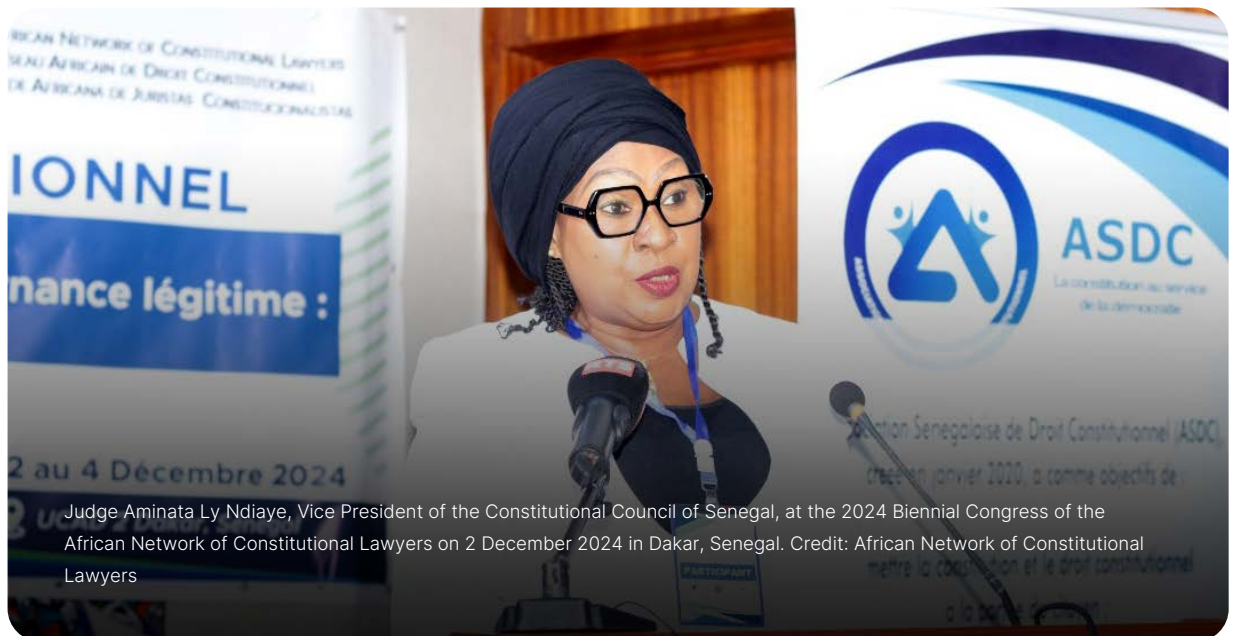
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‘We want to know if the issues concerning youth are being sufficiently considered. We want to increase their public participation beyond participating in events.’

— Roy Ngulube, Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia, during the Youth Parliamentary Academy

Global Programmes

Strengthening Africa's premier network on democratic constitutionalism



Judge Aminata Ly Ndiaye, Vice President of the Constitutional Council of Senegal, at the 2024 Biennial Congress of the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers on 2 December 2024 in Dakar, Senegal. Credit: African Network of Constitutional Lawyers

Funding:

Core

Theme:

Constitution-Building

International IDEA has been a long-standing partner of the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers (ANCL), which brings together communities of public intellectuals, judges, government officials, practitioners and members of civil society to enable peer exchanges and the sharing of knowledge on practical issues of democratic constitutional governance.

In December 2024 International IDEA supported the latest ANCL congress, which was convened in Dakar, Senegal, in collaboration with the Senegalese Association of Constitutional Lawyers.

The congress, which focused on improving democratic institutions in Africa, emphasized lessons learned from the experiences of non-Western countries and explored ways that traditional governance frameworks—prioritizing deliberation, consensus building and shared governance—can counterbalance the incumbency advantage and mitigate the effects of winner-takes-all politics.

The event gathered close to 150 participants, including former President Jorge Fonseca of Cabo Verde, a Senegalese government minister, prominent African intellectuals and civil society representatives.

Beyond the regional network, the ANCL's partnership with International IDEA extends into direct support at the country level. Following the congress in Dakar, for example, International IDEA engaged with participants from both Ghana and Senegal to support capacity-building and constitutional reform efforts.

“

‘[International] IDEA has been an all-weather partner in supporting the ANCL and through us democratic constitutionalism on the continent.’

— **Dr Elvis Fokala**, President of the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers

North America and the Office of the Permanent Observer to the UN

International IDEA's role in the Pact for the Future and Global Digital Compact

Funding: Core

International IDEA was a leading advocate for embedding democracy at the core of the UN's Pact for the Future, emphasizing the need to address democratic backsliding as a global challenge. This advocacy involved developing knowledge and analysis; reviewing successive drafts of the Pact, its Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations; and making statements at the UN to highlight the critical role of democracy and human rights in global frameworks.

These efforts culminated in a significant milestone when International IDEA's Secretary-General underscored the importance of these principles during the Summit of the Future in September 2024 in statements at the UN General Assembly to all UN member states.

International IDEA's work demonstrates the critical need for continued advocacy to embed democracy and human rights in global governance frameworks.



International IDEA Secretary-General Kevin Casas-Zamora delivered a statement at the UN General Assembly during the Summit of the Future in September 2024. Credit: UN Photo

Bridging democracy and security: International IDEA's first NATO Summit event

Funding:

Core

On the margins of the NATO Summit in July 2024, held in Washington DC, International IDEA convened an event titled '[Strengthening Security through Democratic Resilience](#)'. The event brought together experts from two communities that rarely interact—democracy assistance and security and defence—for a dialogue on the nexus between democracy and global security.

By bridging the gap between two traditionally separate spheres, the event identified vital insights into how democratic principles underpin effective security strategies. It also reaffirmed the shared mission to build a secure and democratic future on both sides of the Atlantic and across the world.



Gerry Connolly (standing), Democratic representative from Virginia, speaks at a NATO Summit side event called 'Strengthening Security through Democratic Resilience', on 9 July 2024 in Washington, DC. Also pictured (from left to right) are Patrick Quirk, Vice President for Strategy, Innovation and Impact, International Republican Institute; David Salvo, Managing Director, Alliance for Securing Democracy and Malign Autocratic Influence; Joe Brinker, Policy Fellow, Democratic Resilience, NATO Parliamentary Assembly; Leonie Allard, Visiting Fellow, Atlantic Council; and Calin Trenkov-Wermuth, Security Governance Advisor, US Institute of Peace. Credit: International IDEA

Global democracy campaign: #ThankYouDemocracy

Funding: Robert Bosch Stiftung, Ford Foundation and Core

International IDEA, together with more than 140 partners in the global democracy community, has been convening the [Global Democracy Coalition](#) since 2021. The 2024 #ThankYouDemocracy campaign, initiated by the Coalition, enabled democracy defenders from the Coalition and beyond to share their stories of why and how democracy matters. The campaign brought together partners from all regions, empowering them to showcase democracy's tangible benefits through a series of positive-outcome stories and podcasts, social media engagement and targeted advocacy efforts.

As a host of the Coalition, International IDEA played a pivotal role in bringing together diverse voices and fostering collaboration across regions. Through this effort, the campaign not only strengthened global advocacy for democracy but also created spaces for meaningful engagement, equipping partners with the tools and platforms needed to highlight democracy's role in addressing today's most pressing challenges.

The campaign engaged democracy advocates worldwide, grassroots champions and global leaders, such as Carlos Alvarado, Tsakhia Elbegdorj, Leonel Fernández, Eduardo Frei, Stefan Löfven, Moussa Mara, Hanna Suchocka, Jigme Yoser Thinley and José Luis R. Zapatero, among others.

International IDEA's work demonstrates the critical need for continued advocacy to embed democracy and human rights in global governance frameworks.



#ThankYouDemocracy campaign participants included (top, left) Stefan Löfven, former Prime Minister of Sweden; (top, right) Jigme Yoser Thinley, former Prime Minister of Bhutan; (bottom, left) José Luis R. Zapatero, former Prime Minister of Spain; (bottom, right) Masih Alinejad, President of the World Liberty Congress and Iranian-American journalist, author and women's rights activist, Elisenda Ballesté Buxó (centre), Project Coordinator of the Global Democracy Coalition; and Leopoldo López, General Secretary of the World Liberty Congress and Venezuelan opposition leader and pro-democracy activist who founded the opposition party Popular Will (Voluntad Popular) and served as mayor of Chacao in Caracas, Venezuela. Credit: International IDEA

“

‘Democracy is the right system to follow, is the right system to strengthen, is the right system to spread around the world. That is why for me, all of us, we need to support, to promote and to protect democracy.’

— **Moussa Mara**, former Prime Minister of Mali

Africa and West Asia

Reducing prison overcrowding in Nigeria and improving defendants' rights

Funding:

European Union

Theme:

Constitution-Building and Rule of Law

Seventy per cent of the people in Nigeria's prisons are still awaiting trial, some for seven years or more. In Lagos, magistrates are reluctant to grant bail to defendants out of concern that they may abscond once released.

To address this concern, International IDEA, through its Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme in Nigeria, collaborated with the Lagos state judiciary to build a Bail Information Management System (BIMS). BIMS captures biometric and other data from defendants and their sureties, which can be used to track and rearrest absconding defendants. Thanks to BIMS, magistrates are more confident when granting bail, knowing that the chances that a defendant will evade trial are slim.

BIMS is now operative in 14 magisterial districts and has spared 7,223 defendants from pre-trial detention.



Left: A courthouse in Lagos, Nigeria. Right: Chief Magistrate Bola Osunsanmi (seated) manages the Bail Information Management System on behalf of the Lagos State Judiciary in Nigeria. Credit: International IDEA

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‘One of the things I am most appreciative of is how seamless the system has made our work.’

— Chief Magistrate Bola Osunsanmi, Lagos State High Court

Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme supports free legal services at Nigerian Bar Association conference

Funding: European Union

Theme: Constitution-Building and Rule of Law

The Duty Solicitor Network of Nigeria, with support from International IDEA's Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme, facilitated a series of legal aid clinics during the Nigerian Bar Association's Annual General Conference in 2024.

With the participation of 102 volunteers (74 women, 28 men) from two government agencies and nine civil society organizations, the clinics offered a platform that enabled 214 beneficiaries (149 women, 65 men) to receive legal advice and representation in various civil cases. The initiative sought to enhance access to justice by offering free legal aid to marginalized groups.



Local residents in the state of Lagos, Nigeria, await free legal aid during the Nigerian Bar Association's Annual General Conference held from 23 to 28 August 2024. Credit: International IDEA

“

‘I told them the issue I had, and they were very eager to assist me with my issues and there was no hassle. I did not even pay. I am very surprised that I can access such from the [Nigerian Bar Association].’

— Ogechukwu Okafor, a client of the legal aid clinics

Gambian National Assembly approves first code of conduct for members

Funding: European Union

Themes: Constitution-Building, Political Participation and Representation

As part of the CODE Project, the Gambian National Assembly adopted its first-ever code of conduct for its members in 2024, with support from International IDEA.

This marks a milestone for The Gambia, as it is the National Assembly's first codified and gazetted code of conduct since independence. The document will play a major role in ensuring that members of parliament adhere to the highest ethical standards. This activity was implemented with the support of the Irish Parliament, which has continued its partnership with the Gambian National Assembly that began as part of the Inter Pares | Parliaments in Partnership, a global project to strengthen the capacity of parliaments.

The Ethics and Privileges Committee has committed to ensuring the full implementation of the code of conduct.



Participants of a refresher orientation on ethics in constitutional and legislative processes for members of the Gambian National Assembly. Credit: International IDEA

“

‘The introduction of a Code of Conduct by the sixth legislature is a historic milestone. We are deeply grateful to International IDEA and the European Union for their invaluable support in providing us with a working document that ensures parliamentary proceedings are conducted ethically and professionally, fostering adequate representation.’

— **Alhagi S. Darboe**, Chairperson of the Ethics and Privileges Committee of the National Assembly of The Gambia

International IDEA's Gambia head receives national youth award

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

Jainaba Faye, Head of International IDEA's Gambia office, received the prestigious Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara Award for Democratic Governance in recognition of her contributions to advancing democracy in The Gambia. Named after the country's first president, the award recognized Faye's achievements as a programme specialist with extensive experience in governance, democracy and human rights initiatives.

A former youth parliamentarian, Faye has been involved in civic education, women's political participation and youth empowerment since the age of 13. Previously, in 2014, the Moremi Initiative recognized her as one of Africa's 25 most outstanding emerging young women leaders.



Jainaba Faye, Head of International IDEA's country office in The Gambia. Credit: International IDEA

“

‘This recognition fills me with immense pride, as it reflects how deeply our efforts resonate with the people of The Gambia. It reaffirms that our work is not in vain and strengthens our resolve to unite in safeguarding democracy and advancing the dignity and potential of all citizens.’

— Jainaba Faye

Promoting political-party conflict resolution to empower women lawmakers in Sierra Leone

Funding: European Union

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

International IDEA has been working on a two-year project to strengthen Sierra Leone's democracy, including promoting reforms within political parties and encouraging women, youth and people with special needs to take part in electoral processes.

The project has included promoting political-party conflict resolution as well as empowering women lawmakers and pushing plans to monitor over 200 radio stations and 12 TV stations for inflammatory speech.

Sierra Leone has held five elections since its 11-year civil war ended in 2002. The fact that the latest election was widely seen as the least violent is a testament to the work of International IDEA and its partners in fostering governance and civil discourse among parties, election officials and voters.



Agnes Marah (left), a local councillor whose district is home to more than 45,000 residents in Freetown's Western Urban district, discusses local issues with constituents. Marah, known locally as the 'Iron Lady', is part of an International IDEA-backed initiative, along with a gender rights group that has trained hundreds of elected women on issues from campaigning on social media to writing grant applications. Credit: International IDEA/Alistair Scrutton

“

'International IDEA's involvement was a turning point for us; it has injected life into the commission and catapulted us in terms of visibility.'

— **Abdul Rahman Conteh**, Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Democracy

Supporting transitional authorities in Gabon

Funding: Earmarked core funding from the Netherlands

Theme: Constitution-Building

The Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions took power during the coup d'état that took place in Gabon in 2023. In 2024 the transitional authorities in Gabon consulted International IDEA for advice on how to shape the country's political transitional process.

International IDEA analysed the ongoing political transition in the country and deployed a mission to Gabon to help support the constitutional reform process.

The transitional authorities implemented some of the suggestions, such as unamendable provisions and provisions on duties to protect the constitution.

Moreover, International IDEA provided an induction session for 150 members of the Transitional National Assembly and of the Transitional Senate on the constitution-building process. The Institute also provided training on electoral risk management for 15 senior staff members at the Ministry of the Interior and Security's General Directorate of Elections and for 15 representatives of civil society organizations. The training resulted in a risk analysis that outlined mitigation measures in preparation for the constitutional referendum that took place on 16 November 2024.



Participants at a workshop in Gabon aimed at identifying electoral risks ahead of the 16 November 2024 referendum. Credit: International IDEA

Asia and the Pacific

Indigenous dialogue strengthens advocacy in Asia

Funding:

Core

Themes:

Gender and Inclusion, Political Participation and Representation

International IDEA organized two round tables on Indigenous inclusion that provided a venue for insightful dialogue about inclusion and representation. Despite being home to the largest number of Indigenous Peoples in the world, Asia has some of the most exclusionary practices towards them. For example, wide gaps in legislative and institutional frameworks leave Indigenous communities vulnerable to rights violations.

Despite the challenges posed by shrinking civic space, Indigenous Peoples in Asia have developed innovative strategies to assert and protect their rights. In Nepal, for example, the Tharu community has revitalized their traditional Barghar system, where the Barghar, akin to a ward chair, plays a central role in local governance. This system allows the Tharu to maintain their cultural and legal autonomy within the broader state framework.



Advocates for Indigenous Peoples following a panel discussion entitled 'The Vanguard of Change and Opportunities for Indigenous Youth and Women', organized by International IDEA and the Asia Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, August 2024. Credit: International IDEA/ Leena Rikkilä Tamang

“

'If we are not part of the [national] government, who will fill in the gap? There should be Indigenous or Indigenous-minded people as part of the government.'

— **Charu Bikash Tripura**, Programme Coordinator for the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact's Regional Capacity-Building Programme in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Building global parliamentary networks in Myanmar

Funding: Finland, Luxembourg and Norway

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

Following the coup that took place in Myanmar in 2021, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH)—the country's legitimate interim parliament—used peer-to-peer exchanges and outreach with parliaments to raise awareness of Myanmar's crisis in multilateral and regional forums.

Supported by International IDEA's Building Federal Democracy in Myanmar programme, CRPH members engaged extensively with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). This relationship began in 2022, when the CRPH chairperson attended the UN General Assembly–IPU meeting in New York, opening doors for dialogue on Myanmar and parliamentary best practices.

In 2023 and 2024 the programme facilitated the participation of CRPH delegations in IPU assemblies in Angola, Bahrain and Switzerland that addressed themes such as parliamentary diplomacy and harnessing innovation for peace. Delegates engaged in bilateral meetings with members of parliament from Canada, Germany and Ghana, among other countries, and spoke on Myanmar's situation in plenary sessions.

These efforts strengthened international recognition of Myanmar's interim parliament, reinforced bilateral relationships and secured the IPU Governing Council's decision to maintain the CRPH as its primary interlocutor on Myanmar.



Myanmar pro-democracy protestors in 2022. Credit: [Visualrebellion.org](https://visualrebellion.org)

Bhutanese delegation explores Australian parliamentary innovations

Funding: European Union

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

Committed to strengthening effective democratic institutions and honing best practices, International IDEA was honoured to host a seven-member parliamentary delegation from Bhutan, led by Hon. Sangay Khandu, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, in Australia in October. The purpose of the trip was for the delegation to learn from Australian legislatures' public awareness programmes, youth engagement strategies and visitor management practices.



A delegation from Bhutan's Parliament visits International IDEA's Canberra office in 2024. Credit: International IDEA/Billie Phillips

The delegation visited the Victorian State Parliament, the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly and the Australian Parliament House, gaining a perspective of both state and federal parliamentary practices. These visits highlighted Australia's use of interactive exhibits and educational programmes to engage students and foster public understanding of parliamentary functions—a concept the Bhutanese delegation expressed keen interest in adopting.

The visit underscored Bhutan's commitment to fostering a transparent, youth-focused and accessible parliament. Follow-up initiatives, including new parliamentary education and visitor programmes, will be rolled out in 2025 through the project [Nyamdrel II: Support to CSOs and Parliament of Bhutan](#).

“

‘We are eager to adapt the Australian Parliament’s interactive approach to public and youth engagement in Bhutan, as it aligns with our goals for an informed and engaged society.’

— **Hon. Sangay Khandu**, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan

Europe

Charting a path to recovery: Strengthening Ukraine's electoral readiness

Funding: Liechtenstein and earmarked core funding from Sweden

Theme: Electoral Processes

Millions of people have been displaced since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Although holding elections is prohibited while the country is under martial law, voters could be called to the polls soon after the war ends. In light of this eventuality, International IDEA is supporting preparations for potential post-war elections. These preparations include enabling out-of-country voting, helping the authorities identify and mitigate risks to election integrity, and developing communication strategies for post-war elections. To strengthen its support, International IDEA opened an office in Kyiv.

The Institute arranged visits in 2024 for election commission officials and diplomats to EU member states—including Estonia, Italy, Romania and Spain—and Moldova to explore how to organize out-of-country voting. During these trips, discussions were held with host countries about the conditions necessary for hosting Ukrainian elections on their territory.

The Institute trained election officials on protecting elections, covering risk management—including security threats, foreign interference and election malfunctioning—building resilience and strengthening the capacity to manage crises.



International IDEA Programme Manager Yuliya Shypilova (left) issues a certificate to the Deputy Head of the Department of Administration and Information Protection of the Secretariat of the Central Election Commission, Andrii Lytvyniuk, who participated in a capacity-building workshop on protecting elections in Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine, November, 2024. Credit: Valeriia Landar

“

‘Sharing experiences on this topic is crucial for further efforts to minimize the occurrence of threats and crises.’

— **Natalia Vadimova**, Acting Head of the Ukrainian Election Commission secretariat

How Moldova is tackling online disinformation in elections

Funding: Sweden and Core

Themes: Digitalization and Democracy, Money in Politics

In 2024 Moldova held a simultaneous presidential election and referendum on EU integration. Given the geopolitical importance of these votes, the country faced growing threats to its electoral integrity from digital disinformation and unregulated online campaign financing. In response, International IDEA partnered with Moldova's Central Electoral Commission (CEC) to track online campaign expenditures and identify illicit campaigns. This assistance laid the groundwork for regulatory updates and improved the CEC's capacity to respond to threats.



Members of Moldova's Central Electoral Commission and international experts discuss monitoring online campaigns, July 2024. Credit: International IDEA

Previously, the CEC had limited tools to detect unauthorized expenditures and coordinated disinformation. With International IDEA's training and new monitoring approaches, it gained regular insights into the campaign expenditures and activities of electoral and referendum actors. Weekly reports compiled by International IDEA identified illicit advertising, fake accounts and disinformation networks. Based on online monitoring tools and platform libraries, International IDEA's analysis raised the CEC's awareness of digital threats and improved collaboration with stakeholders in order to respond to those threats.

Strengthening Moldova's digital resilience is key to safeguarding the country's democracy. With this experience and support from International IDEA, the CEC is planning to enhance its monitoring for the country's parliamentary elections in 2025.

“

'Recognizing the growing influence of online space in elections, International IDEA played a key role in enhancing the CEC's capacity to oversee online campaign finance.'

— **Angelica Caraman**, Chair of the Central Electoral Commission of Moldova

Driving ethical campaign standards for 2024 European elections

Funding:

Core

Themes:

Electoral Processes, Digitalization and Democracy

International IDEA's Regional Europe Programme team helped ensure transparent and ethical campaigning for the 2024 European Parliament elections. Their engagement with the European Commission in 2023 led to a recommendation in the EU's Defence of Democracy Package on public pledges for ethical online campaigning ahead of the 2024 elections. Building on this recommendation, the team presented their experience with the 2021 Dutch Code of Conduct at a meeting with Commission Vice-President Vera Jourová and the 10 European political party families in February 2024. As a consequence, International IDEA was asked to facilitate the development of a code of conduct for the [European Parliament elections](#).

Led by International IDEA and involving all 10 European political party families, the drafting and negotiation process resulted in a document in which all 10 European political parties made 14 commitments for transparent and fair campaigning, especially in the online sphere. The signing of the code of conduct, at a ceremony hosted by Vice-President Jourová on 9 April 2024, marked a milestone in terms of enhancing integrity and accountability in European Parliament elections. Various media reported on the code.

To increase public awareness, the team presented the code of conduct to all 27 European electoral commissions, the European Commission, representatives of EU member states, the Danish Parliament, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Victoria Electoral Commission, ensuring widespread recognition of these ethical standards at both the European and international levels.



Officials from International IDEA and the European Commission pose for a photo with the leaders of several European political parties following the signing of a code of conduct at the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels on 9 April 2024. Among the officials are International IDEA's Director for Europe, Sam van der Staak (fourth from left), and Marilyn Neven, programme manager (second from right), as well as European Commission Vice-President Vera Jourová (holding the signed document). Credit: European Union/Lukasz Kobus. Source: EC - Audiovisual Service

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‘I very much welcome that the political parties signed a voluntary code of conduct ahead of these elections, notably on the ethical use of AI campaign tools.’

— **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission during a speech delivered at the [Copenhagen Democracy Summit](#), 14 May 2024

Global leaders urge EU to prioritize democracy action

Funding:

Core

Themes:

Electoral Processes, Constitution-Building and Rule of Law, Democracy and Digitalization, Political Participation and Representation

In the run-up to the European Parliament elections in June 2024, International IDEA's Regional Europe Programme spearheaded a public statement titled 'Call to Defend Democracy: 10 Priorities for the Next European Commission'. The statement garnered the endorsement of over 350 prominent organizations and personalities, underscoring the urgent need to uphold democratic values within and beyond European borders. The statement showed the imperative for the forthcoming EU leadership to prioritize democratic values amid rising authoritarianism. It highlighted 10 key priorities, urging the EU to fortify its internal democratic structures, enhance the rule of law and ensure that new digital technologies safeguard human rights. The EU was also called upon to place democracy at the centre of its external agenda, by integrating democracy into trade and investment, safeguarding electoral integrity, emphasizing democracy in EU-enlargement efforts, and increasing resources for democracy and civic space programs globally.



More than 350 pro-democracy organizations, Nobel laureates and political and civil leaders, including former heads of state and government and EU leaders, signed a public call to defend democracy in June 2024. Credit: European Endowment for Democracy

Prominent figures such as Nobel Peace Prize Laureates José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya of Belarus and Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, two dozen former heads of state and leading EU officials lent their influential voices. As European citizens prepared to vote, the statement aimed to mobilize policymakers, stressing that democracy remains the most effective system for addressing societal challenges and protecting the rights of all citizens. The statement was featured by media globally.

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‘The EU is a global champion of democracy. But the future authorities of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission must ensure that its commitment to defend and support democracy does not waver in the face of a multitude of global crises. These 10 priorities will go a long way to ensuring this ambition.’

— Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, Secretary-General of International IDEA

Latin America and the Caribbean

Designing resistance to democratic backsliding in Latin America

Funding: Core and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

Themes: Political Participation and Representation, Gender and Inclusion



Latin America and the Caribbean has enjoyed success with respect to representation, participation and inclusion. For example, the region has seen improvements in women's political representation and the successful organization of elections.

Despite these gains, some countries continue to suffer from high levels of inequality, while also experiencing democratic setbacks and confronting new challenges that are straining governance, stability and the possibility of equitable growth and well-being for their citizens.

International IDEA partnered with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and its training centre in Antigua, Guatemala, to organize a conference to analyse the causes of democratic backsliding and outline possible strategies to strengthen democratic resilience in the region. Participants included representatives from across Latin America, Spain and the USA, including academics, legislators, non-governmental organizations, youth and women's organizations, journalists and other media professionals as well as intergovernmental and international cooperation institutions.

The AECID worked on the methodology for the dialogue, together with international IDEA. The dialogue provided a space for exploring the causes of democratic deterioration in Latin America and the Caribbean and addressing how these setbacks could be reversed.

The conference enabled participants to identify common challenges and strategies to support democratic resilience. The final plenary and group discussions unanimously reaffirmed that collective efforts can, and must, prevent backsliding and protect democratic gains in the region.

Luis Guillermo Solís (left), former president of Costa Rica; Antón Leis, director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID); Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile; Francisco Sagasti, former president of Peru; Marcela Ríos Tobar, regional director of International IDEA for Latin America and the Caribbean and Jesús Molina Vázquez, director of the Spanish Cooperation Training Center in La Antigua Guatemala. Pictured during the Regional Dialogue in Guatemala in October 2024, organized for International IDEA in collaboration with AECID. Credit: International IDEA/Manuel Rodríguez

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‘This dialogue was a crucial space to explore practical solutions that strengthen our institutions and reinforce democratic resilience in the region.’

— **Olga Caballero**, Co-founder and Director of Civic Spirit (Alma Cívica)

A major step forward in women's political participation in Mexico

Funding: Core and the National Electoral Institute

Themes: Electoral Processes, Political Participation and Representation

Claudia Sheinbaum won the June 2024 election with more than 50 per cent of the vote, becoming Mexico's first female president. In addition, since the implementation of the 'Parity in Everything' law, more than half of Congress is made up of women. This is a milestone in women's participation, political representation and access to power.

International IDEA accompanied this electoral process through several technical assistance missions to the National Electoral Institute of Mexico, mainly focused on monitoring the gender agenda and the digitalization processes applied to the general elections.

This included dialogues with electoral authorities, civil society actors, representatives of political parties and candidates. Experts also attended one of the presidential debates, which focused on economic development, poverty, inequality and climate change.

International IDEA's work in Mexico highlights the importance of collaboration between different organizations and institutions to address complex issues such as political violence, polarization and disinformation, and points to the need for future processes that prioritize civic media education and literacy.



Secretary-General of International IDEA, Kevin Casas-Zamora, together with the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean Marcela Ríos Tobar, visit a voting centre in Mexico City, during the general elections of 2 June 2024, as part of a team of international visitors who accompanied the National Electoral Institute. Photo: International IDEA/Luis Consuegra

Peru Deliberates: A transformative experience in citizen dialogue

Funding: US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Theme: Political Participation and Representation

Peru Deliberates (Delibera Perú), a groundbreaking event designed to improve citizen participation and political representation, inspired by successful international models, took place on 5 October 2024. Held in a context of distrust in democracy and low political engagement, it aimed to renew optimism by bringing together 177 participants from all over Peru.

Participants debated issues such as voluntary voting, deliberation among local residents, regional movements and reserved congressional seats for Indigenous and Afro-Peruvian peoples.

Notably, 90 per cent of the participants said that they felt more informed, and the portion of participants who believed that their political opinions were unimportant dropped from 15 per cent to just 5 per cent, based on survey responses before and after the deliberation process. [Peru Deliberates](#) proved that inclusive dialogue can rebuild trust in democracy and bridge divides in a polarized society.



On 5 October 2024, 177 participants from throughout Peru gathered for a once-in-a-lifetime deliberation experience. Chosica, Peru.
Credit: International IDEA/Adrián Alcocer

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‘My experience is very positive because I have learned new terms and also about experiences that I didn’t know about—for example, I didn’t know what congressional seats or other political terms were. ... It is something that I can also teach my friends because not everyone knows about these issues.’

— **Vanessa Chavez Chambi**, a participant in a Peru Deliberates event from Putumayo, Loreto

International IDEA in numbers

58,890

publication downloads on the International IDEA website

2,054,796

visits to the International IDEA website

13,718

total new followers on social media

Total on X: 3,137 | Total on Facebook: 2,408 | Total on LinkedIn: 8,173

1,205,800

total new views and reach on social media

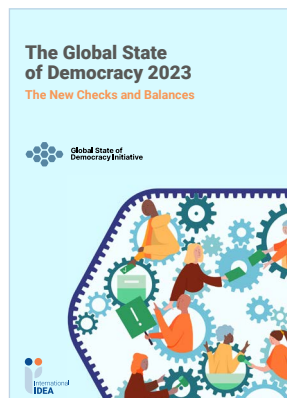
Total on X: 410,000 | Total (reach) on Facebook: 95,800 | Total on LinkedIn: 700,000

23,265

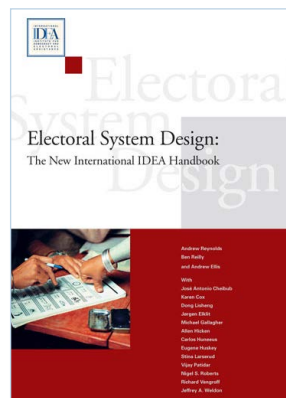
total media mentions in 2024

(includes web media mentions and social media mentions based on Determ data)

Top 10 publications, by downloads, on the International IDEA website



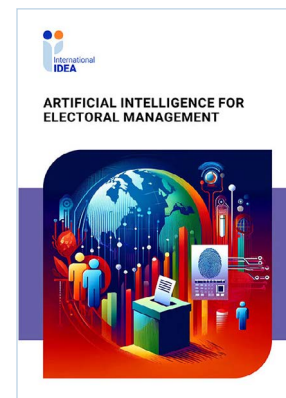
The Global State of Democracy 2023: New Checks and Balances



Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook (2008 edition)



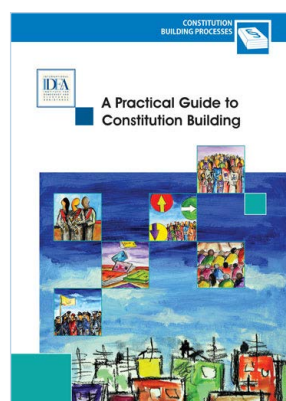
Perceptions of Democracy: A Survey about How People Assess Democracy around the World



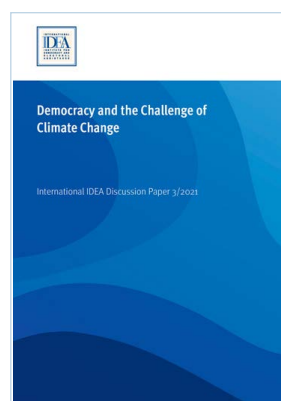
Artificial Intelligence for Electoral Management



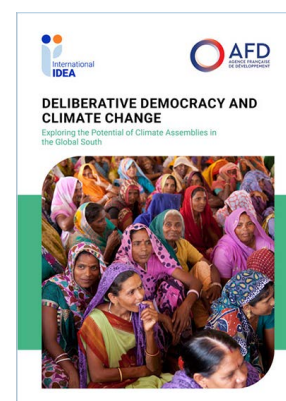
Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns: A Handbook on Political Finance



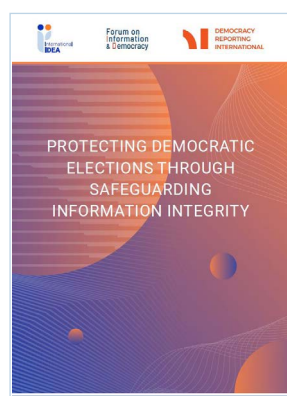
A Practical Guide to Constitution Building



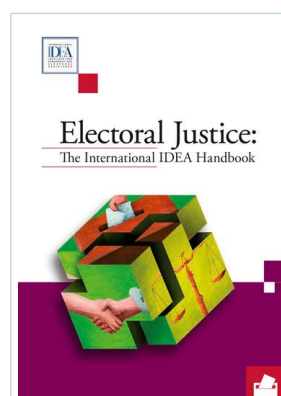
Democracy and the Challenge of Climate Change, International IDEA Discussion Paper 3/2021



Deliberative Democracy and Climate Change: Exploring the Potential of Climate Assemblies in the Global South

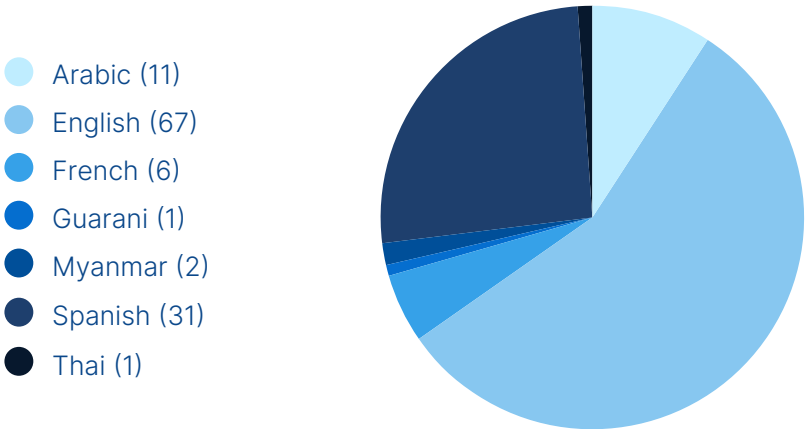


Protecting Democratic Elections through Safeguarding Information Integrity

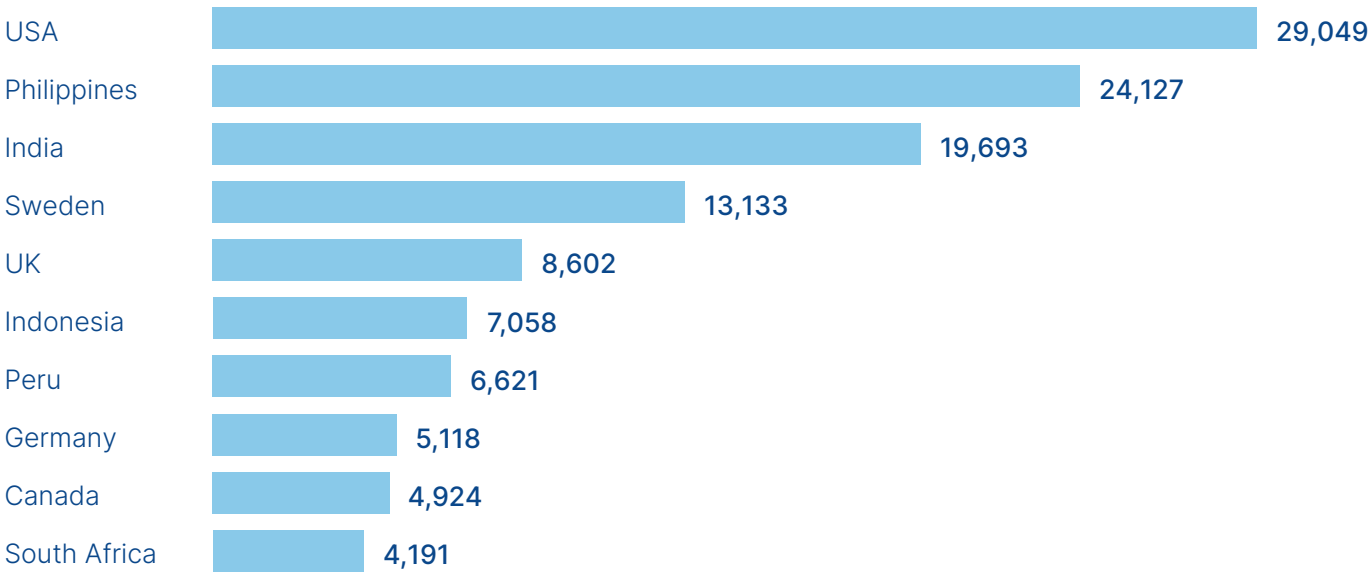


Electoral Justice: The International IDEA Handbook

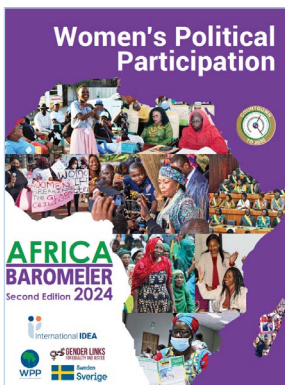
Publications produced by International IDEA in 2024, by language



Number of publication downloads in 2024, top 10 countries



Women's Political Participation:
Africa Barometer 2024



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'Women's Political Participation: Africa Barometer 2024 is a resourceful document for policymakers, civil society and development partners working to advance gender equality in political leadership. It provides up-to-date statistics on women and youth participation in politics and decision making across Africa and highlights both progress and persistent barriers. Its insights on challenges, recommendations and solutions inform stakeholders to design and implement evidence-based interventions that foster inclusive governance and democracy.'

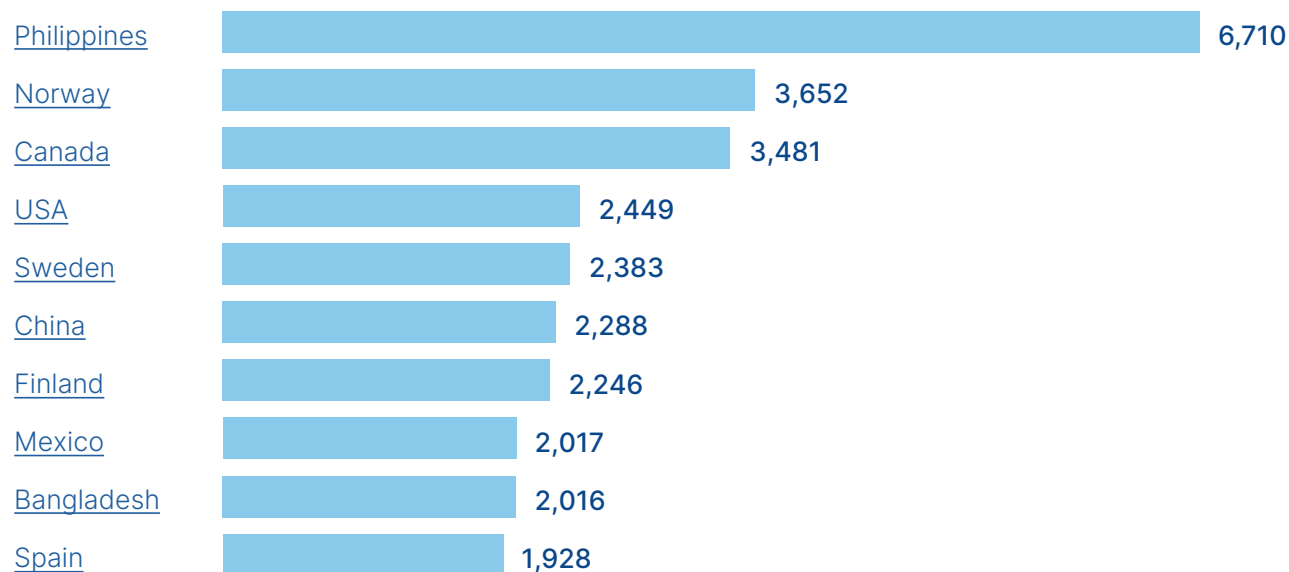
— **Cynthia Barasa**, Women in Political Participation Programme Officer, Forum for African Women Educationalists

98,991

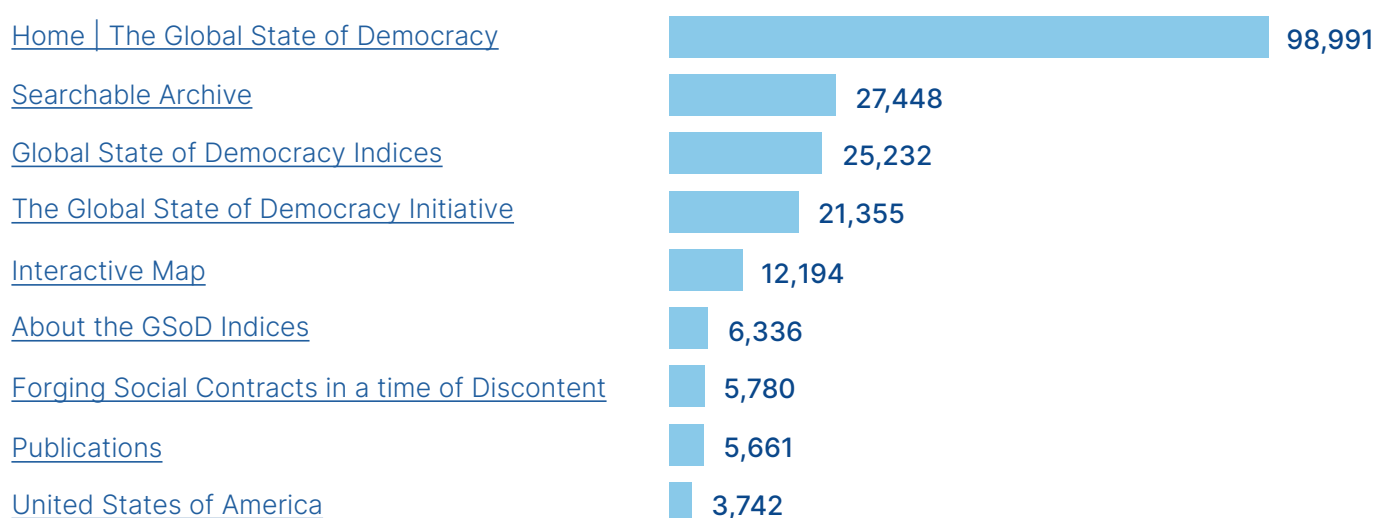
views on the Democracy Tracker homepage in 2024



Top 10 viewed country pages on Democracy Tracker website

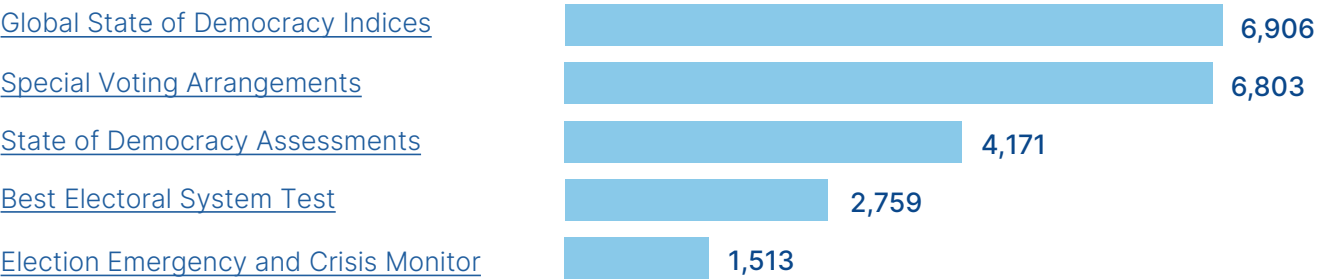


Top 10 viewed pages on Democracy Tracker website



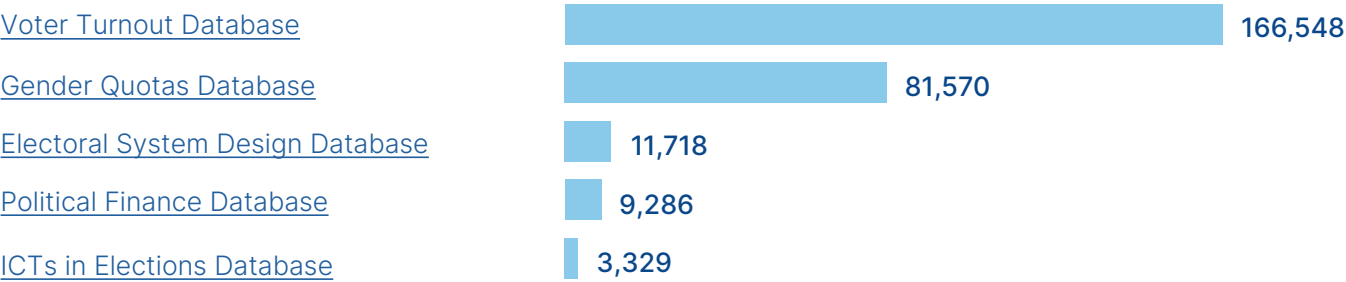
Total views of databases and tools in 2024 on the International IDEA website

Top 5 tools by views*



*This list does not include the Democracy Tracker.

Top 5 databases by views



Highlighted media outlets



The Economist: Kevin Casas-Zamora on democracy in an age of radical uncertainty

Kevin Casas-Zamora on democracy in an age of radical uncertainty

It is time to rethink social contracts, argues the political scientist



ILLUSTRATION: DAN WILLIAMS

Feb 23rd 2024

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THIS YEAR the world will see an explosion of electoral activity. Whether this will be a global celebration of democracy is less certain. Even leaving aside

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The Democratic Process Is Under Threat. It Must Be Protected.

The New York Times World Review



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More people went to the polls in 2024 than ever before, but research reveals significant backsliding in electoral credibility.

By the end of 2024, well over two billion people will have cast their ballots in 73 national elections around the world. Impressive though these figures might be, they tell us little about the quality of those elections and even less about the health of global democracy. We know by now that while democracy is impossible without meaningful elections, the electoral ritual can coexist with the absence of democracy. Ultimately, elections



Kevin Casas-Zamora
Secretary-general of the
International Institute
for Democracy and
Electoral Assistance (IIDEA)

reflect the quality of the institutions that surround them.

Unfortunately, the quality of democratic institutions is on a decidedly downward path. According to research from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the intergovernmental organization that I head, 2023 was the eighth consecutive year in which more countries saw a decline rather than an improvement in their democratic performance, the longest

such stretch in the past half century. Out of the 173 countries covered by our report, nearly half experienced a significant deterioration in a key component of democracy over the past five years, including freedom of expression, press freedom and free political parties. If those enabling factors for democratic elections are weakened, it is unsurprising that one of the report's main findings is the extent to which the quality of elections is under stress global-

2 WORLD REVIEW

LA VANGUARDIA

La desigualdad ahoga la democracia

ABC Opinión

La democracia en tiempos recios

FINANCIAL TIMES

Can democracy survive 2024?

DAGENS NYHETER.

Supervalår i år – då backar demokratin

euronews.

State of the Union: Issues feeding anti-democratic anger

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

2024 was a 'Year of Elections' when democracy lost out

The Guardian

Did democracy survive the 2024 global election marathon?

The Guardian
Conscience, Nurtured by Truth

RoLAC urges traditional rulers to lead fight against SGBV

DW Deutsche Welle

How the year of elections is set to reshape global politics

 **Reuters**

Global index for free and fair elections suffers biggest decline on record in 2023, democracy watchdog says

BalkanWeb

Gjysma e botës ka mbajtur zgjedhje këtë vit, ndikimi i garës presidenciale në SHBA në demokracitë e vendeve të tjera

EFE:

La democracia de EE.UU. no ha superado su declive desde la era de Trump, según informe

BBC

Fresh faces in Mozambique's poll as independence-era leaders bow out

VOA

Qataris say no to popular elections for legislature

AP

Democracy declined for 8th straight year around the globe, institute finds

Los Angeles Times

Lessons from the elections held in 70 countries in 2024

Daily Mail

UK: DANIEL HANNAN: This year, a record number of people worldwide turned out to vote. Yet, paradoxically, democracy is in retreat. We MUST reverse this terrifying trend

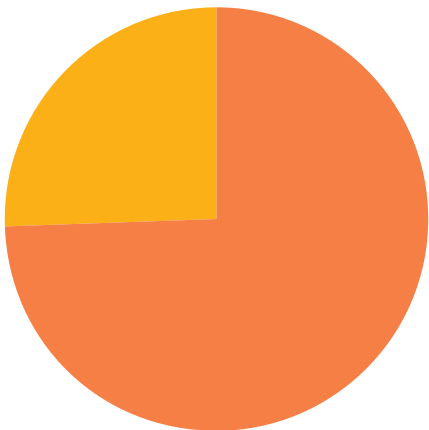
Financials

34.7%

increase in restricted project funding between 2023 and 2024

Total expenditure 2024 €51,194,308

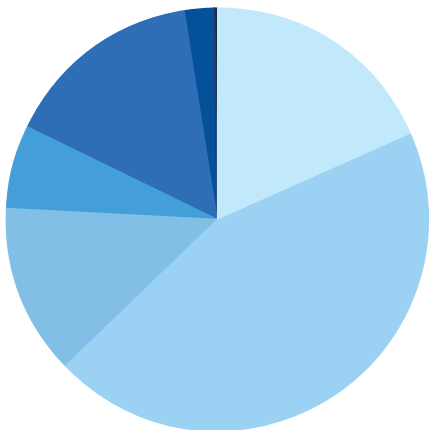
- Core (€12,986,976)
- Restricted (€38,209,127)



Total expenditure by programme 2024 €48,836,868

(includes activities, office, staff and indirect costs)

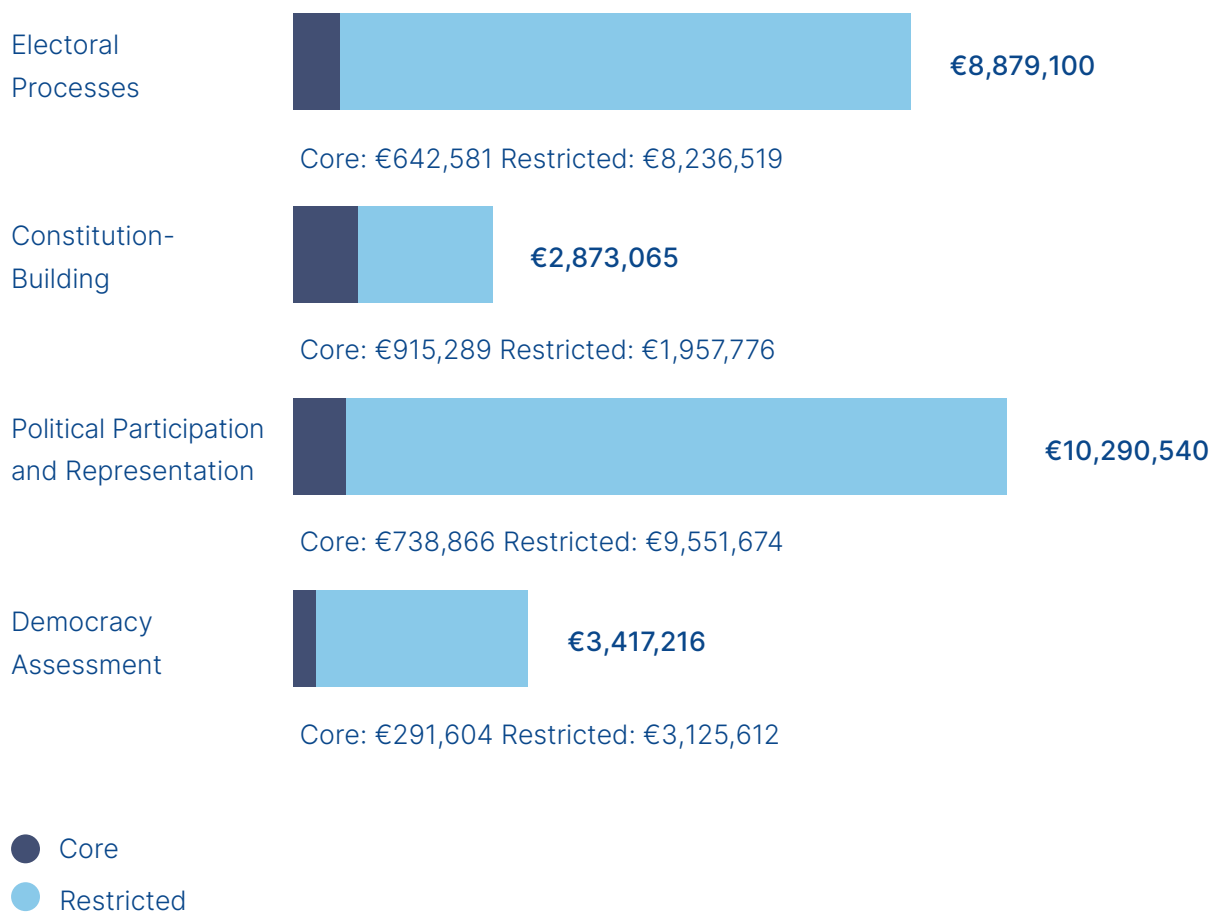
- Global Programme (€9,016,435)
- Africa & West Asia (€21,706,186)
- Asia & the Pacific (€6,316,645)
- Regional Europe (€3,211,890)
- Latin America & the Caribbean (€7,399,322)
- North America (€1,066,631)
- Secretary-General's Office Programmatic (€74,725)
- Executive Division Programmatic (€45,034)



95%

of funding goes
to programmes

Expenditure by theme (activities only)



Donors

Member States’ and donors’ contributions to the work of International IDEA are instrumental in advancing our shared vision of achieving a more resilient and inclusive democracy for all. We are pleased to recognize our donors that partnered with us for the delivery of key outcomes for democracy in 2024.

Top 10 core funders

	
Sweden	Norway
	
The Netherlands	Switzerland
	
France	Germany
	
Finland	Chile
	
Estonia	Brazil

Top 10 restricted funders

	
European Union	United States
	
Private foundations	Sweden
	
United Kingdom	Germany
	
Canada	Panama
	
Norway	Republic of Korea

Partners

Some examples of our valuable partners are shown here. To learn more about these partners and many others, please visit our Partners webpage.



United Nations



United Nations Development Programme



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Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)



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and Development (OECD)



Varieties of Democracies
(V-Dem)



Association of World Election
Bodies (A-WEB)



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Open Government Partnership



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Our Value Proposition

International IDEA is the leading intergovernmental organization dedicated to supporting democracy worldwide.

The Institute produces and shares knowledge, develops capacity at country and regional level, convenes dialogues and advocates for democracy on the international stage.

Expertise. Agility. Credibility.

An Effective Investment in Democracy

Investing in International IDEA delivers:

- ✓ A credible, expert partner in development assistance and democracy support.
- ✓ A connection to diverse partners and Member States for dialogue and learning.
- ✓ A political signal that human rights, fairness, and choice in government matter, and that democracy is a universal aspiration that must be asserted and improved.

Our Strengths

Democracy faces existential challenges, including weak public trust in institutions, high polarization and rising authoritarianism. International IDEA helps democracies respond with the following assets:



We are truly global. As an intergovernmental organization, our membership includes 35 countries that respect democratic values and principles, from all continents. Our Member States represent a quarter of humanity, from South Africa and India to Sweden and Uruguay. Our reach extends even further, with 20 offices on all continents and activities in 60 countries. Our global presence gives us strong North-South, regional and country-level insights that guide our capacity development work. We continue to grow our network of Member States, offices and activities, especially in the Global South.



We have world-leading expertise. Our staff and networks are the world's top experts on democracy, and we apply this expertise through our capacity development work around the world. Policymakers and practitioners come to us for insights and advice on electoral management, constitutional design, inclusive politics, and much more. We have 25+ years of experience supporting democratic reforms in countries as diverse as Barbados, The Gambia, Nepal, and The Netherlands. We have a record leading innovation in areas from parliamentary gender quotas to the relationship between climate change and democracy. Our Global State of Democracy Initiative is a globally trusted reference for assessing democratic performance.



We are trusted partners. We amplify our efforts by working in partnerships—with Member States, other governments, UN agencies, regional organizations (EU, AU, ASEAN, OAS, etc.), civil society, academics, and the private sector. We are a highly flexible intergovernmental organization: equally effective taking the podium as a UN Permanent Observer; implementing projects as an EU pillar-assessed partner; or working with 100+ civil society groups we co-lead in the Global Democracy Coalition.



We are conveners for democracy. Among our Member States, International IDEA is a top forum for discussion of democracy issues by peer countries across the Global South and Global North. More broadly, the Institute holds the trust of governments, international organizations, and civil society. Our partners value our ability to build coalitions and gather diverse stakeholders for policy-relevant dialogues, including on complex topics like artificial intelligence and conflict prevention.



We give democracy a strong voice. At a time when democracy faces growing challenges, from economic inequality to disinformation, it is also too often taken for granted. With our mandate to promote democracy, we bring a democratic lens to other global agendas, from the Sustainable Development Goals to peace and security. And since we cannot advance democracy alone, we mobilize the capacities of our Member States and partners. Our voice is highly valued: the US President has quoted our research findings and we appear regularly in the world's major media.



Explore the digital version



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